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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/717,103

Examiner

Carlos Amaya

Applicant(s)

YIN, RONG

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments filed on 9/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14,21-23,25-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose "a first sub-circuit for detecting when the switch, if configured as a normally-open switch, closes and the first input has transitioned to a high voltage value, and further including a second sub-circuit for detecting when the switch, if configured as a normally-open switch, closes and the first input has transitioned to a low voltage value, the normally-open detection circuit generating a first signal based on the detection" and "a first sub-circuit for detecting when the switch, if configured as a normally-closed switch, opens and the second input has transitioned to a high voltage value, and further including a second sub-circuit for detecting when the switch, if configured as a normally-closed switch, closes and the second input has transitioned to a low voltage value, the normally-closed detection circuit generating a second signal based on the detection". Along with the remaining features of the claim.

Claim 21 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose " a first transistor coupled between a first terminal of the at least one resistive element and a high reference voltage source; a second transistor coupled between the first terminal of the at least one resistive element and the first conduction terminal of the switch; a third transistor coupled between a second terminal of the at least one resistive element and a low reference voltage source; and a fourth transistor

coupled between the first conduction terminal of the switch and the second terminal of the at least one resistive element". Along with the remaining features of the claim.

Claim 27 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose "normally-open detection circuit further including an enable circuit responsive to a received first enable signal for selectively enabling operation of the normally-open detection circuit" and "the normally-closed detection circuit further including an enable circuit responsive to a received second enable signal for selectively enabling operation of the normally-closed detection circuit" and "a control circuit responsive to a control signal for generating the first and second enable signals to have opposite logic states so as to enable the normally-open detection circuit and disable the normally-closed detection circuit if the switch is configured as a normally-open switch and alternatively enable the normally-closed detection circuit and disable the normally-open detection circuit if the switch is configured as a normally-closed switch". Along with the remaining features of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Amaya whose telephone number is (571) 272-8941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

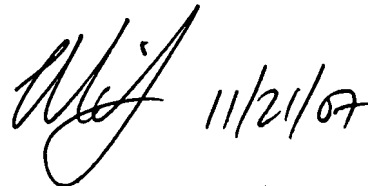
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on (571) 272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CA



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